

Thomas Jefferson MONTICELLO

WINTER 2010

www.monticello.org

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From the President

BEFORE THE FOLIAGE TURNED brilliant orange and red, Monticello welcomed autumn with the Heritage Harvest Festival and the Inaugural Wine Festival. More than 3,000 visitors embraced the legacy of Thomas Jefferson as a revolutionary gardener. A week later, over 400 visitors sampled Virginia wines on the West Lawn during the Inaugural Wine Festival at Monticello.

In recent years, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, with help from our good friends and neighbors, has added new ways to interact with Jefferson's beloved "little mountain." People flocked to see the new Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and Smith Education Center, as well as the recently restored South Pavilion and chrome yellow Dining Room. We restored the dependencies: the Wine Cellar and Kitchen. Visitors enjoy the new Crossroads exhibition, with hands-on displays and archaeological artifacts. More than 3,000 guests signed up to go upstairs to never-before-seen rooms during the first three months of the new Behind-the-Scenes tour.

Perhaps you are wondering, "Why?" Why are we interpreting Mulberry Row and the Landscape of Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello? Why are we hosting community festivals and lectures? Why are our scholars speaking at symposia in Australia?

The short and simple answer is – this is our mission. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation is dedicated to our dual mission of education and preservation. We're embracing changes in forms of communication. We believe we have

met the 21st century with gusto. We're going global with our website and outreach. We're digging deeper into tough topics like slavery – and finding new ways to interpret Monticello's history.

We're enhancing the visitor experience so we can connect with people through their interests.

Do you like wine? Thomas Jefferson was considered America's first distinguished viticulturist. Do you love food?

Thomas Jefferson is considered America's first foodie. Do you like architecture? Thomas Jefferson taught himself architecture and built Monticello. Engaging people in their interests allows us to spread the life and legacy of Thomas Jefferson to a global audience.

We are grateful to our friends and generous donors who provide support for our Jefferson stewardship at Monticello and beyond. With your help, we will continue our mission of education and preservation, providing new interpretations, like the restoration of Mulberry Row. Fritz and Claudine Kundrun graciously issued a challenge to match individual gifts, up to \$3 million in support of this project. I hope you will feel inspired to support this project or



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one of many others aimed at preserving history at Monticello.

As we prepare for holiday cheer and wreath making, we're reminded that it won't be long before we welcome a new year with exciting new projects on the horizon. We invite you to participate – schedule a visit, become our friend on Facebook, visit our website, or make a gift to the Monticello Annual Fund.

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Leslie Greene Bowman, President & CEO